

House Resolution 1537

By: Representative Jones of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Rail Crossing Safety; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, following an investigation of a deadly collision of a train and a school bus that
3 took the lives of three children in Tennessee in 2002, the National Transportation Safety
4 Board recommended that states make it a high priority to improve safety at ungated railroad
5 crossings used by school buses; and

6 WHEREAS, vehicles and trains collide an average of nine times a day; and

7 WHEREAS, nationally, there were more than 3,400 reported collisions at railroad grade
8 crossings in 2004 resulting in nearly 400 fatalities and more than 1,300 injuries; and

9 WHEREAS, children's lives can and will be saved if states adopt the simple safety measures
10 that the National Transportation Safety Board recommended; and

11 WHEREAS, it is vital that officials at the state level be possessed of all relevant information
12 regarding rail crossings over which local school bus routes traverse.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
14 there is created the House Study Committee on Rail Crossing Safety to be composed of seven
15 members as follows: two members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives; one member appointed by the commissioner of
17 transportation; one member appointed by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and
18 Trainmen; one member appointed by the United Transportation Union; and the following
19 members appointed by the Governor: one school superintendent and one representative of
20 a rail carrier doing business in Georgia. The Speaker shall appoint a chairperson. The
21 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
3 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
7 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
8 legislative committees and the nonlegislative members shall receive the travel allowance
9 allowed for members of the General Assembly, but shall receive the same for not more than
10 ten days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the
11 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
12 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
13 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
14 made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on December
15 31, 2006.